



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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CONTACT: Jill M. Hudson
615-532-6597 (OFFICE)
615-305-7661 (CELL)

TDMHDD Awarded Access to Recovery Grant

SAMHSA Administrator Terry Cline Presents Check for \$14.2 million

NASHVILLE— The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Administrator Terry Cline presented a “big check” today to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts for \$14.2 million. The check will fund a three year Access to Recovery program that will provide a multifaceted array of treatment and recovery services for Tennesseans with substance abuse problems.

“Access to Recovery provides vital help to Tennesseans trying to start a new life,” said Governor Phil Bredesen. “These funds help give those seeking recovery more treatment options, the ability to choose among treatments they believe will help them succeed, and greater access to services that support recovery.”

Tennessee’s unique proposal will provide enhanced referral collaboration with the criminal justice system, expansion of a statewide culturally competent provider network of both faith and community-based agencies, and the development of a strengths-based case management model that will allow individuals to achieve and maintain recovery by offering consumer choice while improving access to clinical treatment and recovery support.

The first ATR grant, awarded in August 2004, provided 12,800 Tennessee consumers with substance abuse problems, treatment and/or recovery support services, greatly exceeding its three-year target of 8,250 consumers. In addition the number of treatment providers increased with 50 percent of the ATR providers being faith-based organizations.

“Allowing the consumer a voucher to choose the treatment options and providers they believe will help them succeed encourages personal ownership in the recovery process,” said Commissioner Betts. “This grant also enables mission-driven, community treatment and support providers need to serve more consumers across Tennessee. The strong foundation built by prior ATR successes will allow even more Tennessee citizens the opportunity to recover from addiction.”

“Providing people who have substance abuse problems with choices regarding their treatment and recovery supports makes sense,” said SAMHSA Administrator Terry Cline, Ph.D. “It helps empower them from the very beginning in the fight for their life. Access to Recovery provides individuals the flexibility needed to find their own path to recovery.”

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ATR is a highly competitive grant process; Tennessee was one of 40 entities to apply, and one of only 18 states chosen. Even more significant, Tennessee is one of only 10 states to be awarded a grant for the second time.

For more information on the Access to Recovery Grants program, visit www.atr.samhsa.gov. For Tennessee's ATR program or additional mental health or substance abuse information, please contact TDMHDD's Office of Public Information and Education at (615) 253-4812 or visit www.state.tn.us/mental.

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